experimental Battery operated Buses are said to be highly successful and if so, whether Government propose to produce such buses on large-scale to cater to the needs of mass public transport in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): A pilot demonstration programme has been undertaken by the Department of *Non-Conventional Energy Sources* (DNES) in association with Delhi Energy Development Agency (DEDA) for operations of electravans i.e. battery operated buses, in the crowded areas of Delhi. The DEDA has been operating these buses as an experimental demonstration programme. These vehicles have been found to have a limited range after each recharge and are also prone to breakdowns due to overloading. The seating capacity also is limited. DNES has plans to take up conversion of a few fullsized buses for experimental purposes under its R&D programme with co-operation of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. Technology has thus as yet to be perfected and economic viability demonstrated. There is no proposal at present to produce such buses on large scale to cater to the needs of mass transport.

Honouring of freedom fighters who were Lodged in the cellular Jail at Port Blair

*411. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to honour the top freedom fighters who had spent the prime of their life in the infamous cellular jail in Port Blair during India's freedom movement:

(b) if so, the number and the details of the freedom fighters to be so honoured; and

(c) what arrangements are being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED) : (a) to (c) The freedom fighters who suffered imprisonment in the cellular jail in Port Blair have already been honoured by sanctioning Swatantrata Sainik Saman Pension at the enhanced rate of Rs. 1,000/-p. m. The number of such freedom fighters is 285.

"Programme Generation Facility" at Goa Doordarshan Station

*412. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the "Programme Generation Facility " at Goa Doordarshan Station has been installed but not yet commissioned; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to start this Programme and the likely duration for the daily regional programmes thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA):

(a) and (b) The Programme Generation Facility (PGF) set up recently at Panaji could not be commissioned into service because of non-availability of staff. Steps have however, been taken to ensure early